

strong support from the various groups that have spent their lifetime speaking for children.

We will probably have an opportunity to get into some greater detail in discussion of those provisions. As I mentioned briefly in our comments, we have recognized the importance of developing and upgrading the science function in this agency. We think the FDA—at a time we are having breakthroughs in knowledge, in science, in so many areas, we want to make sure the FDA is out there on the cutting edge with respect to these breakthroughs and know where they are going. We have paid particular attention to those as well.

Then the Udall-Reagan Foundation is to try to look longer term at ways in which the agency functions and take a longer look to make recommendations to the private sector and to the public sector about how it can be more effective generally. That kind of idea has not been included in the past. It can very well be enormously valuable and helpful to legislators in the future.

We have tried to get legislation that will provide the protection presently, help and assist breakthrough technologies, and provide a faster track for the American people in the future, but to do it with greater safety protections for all families, and to recognize we are at a time of breakthrough science, which that agency has to have, and there are going to be breakthroughs in different modalities in that agency working in the future. We have tried to build into this an agency that can give us advice so we can be more effective in the future.

I hope we will be able to move ahead. I know we have gone through, in careful detail, the administration's positions over the weekend. We certainly respect those. We have had a good exchange with the administration.

For those who are interested, if they read through the letter they sent to Senator ENZI and myself, and then if they look at the recommendation of the Institute of Medicine, they will find we are much closer to the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine. We may face some amendments in those areas. We look forward to having a good discussion and debate and the opportunity to expand some of the points we have made this evening.

Mr. ENZI. I thank particularly Secretary Leavitt and those people on his staff. We had discussions over the weekend. They had some suggestions for changes. We asked for more detail on those changes. We also asked for them to be prioritized. I was pleased they were delivered within a matter of a very short period of time. That shows people in Government can work together and that they do work on the weekends to get these things done. A lot of people think when we go into recess for a weekend, all work around here stops. But there are dedicated staff who put their best effort into getting together and working together,

sometimes in very tense situations and long hours, mostly through the night—last night. Then they have to draft what has actually been decided. It is a very difficult process. We owe them a great deal of credit. I want the American people to know that, too.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, we have the legislation before us. We hope those who have an interest and have some ideas, have some amendments, will be in touch with Senator ENZI and ourselves through this late afternoon, early evening, or first thing in the morning. We want to try to address those amendments early in the day, as early as we can. We understand both parties have their lunches and have important matters to discuss, and I am sure this will be among them. But we are ready for any of the amendments, as I underline what Senator ENZI has said. We had great participation in our markup with the members of our committee. As he mentioned as well, we have had enormous involvement of our committee members and many others over the period since the legislation was reported out of our committee until now.

We are still in the process of trying to do business because we think this legislation is so important. We hope those who do have amendments will be in touch with us at the earliest possible time.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent we now go into a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

IN RECOGNITION OF CIMARRON-MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my privilege to congratulate the High Rollers team of Cimarron-Memorial High School in Las Vegas. This team recently won a championship victory at the FIRST Robotics Competition at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

The FIRST Robotics Competition, otherwise known as the "Superbowl of Smarts," is designed to inspire young people to pursue opportunities in science and technology careers. The competition challenges teams of high school students and their mentors to construct robots over the course of 6 weeks while adhering to competition guidelines and design specifications.

Founded in 1989 through the vision of inventor Dean Kamen, FIRST is a not-for-profit whose acronym means "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." As a result of Mr. Kamen's leadership, FIRST has grown into one of the leading robotics competitions in the entire country. Stu-

dents from more than 1,300 high schools and 23 countries participated in this year's event.

The High Rollers team from Cimarron paired with a coalition of two high school teams from South Windsor, CT, and Worcester, MA, to win the national championship title with a thrilling 59 to 54 victory in the final round. In honor of their victory, the students will meet with President Bush and attend a congressional reception where they will demonstrate their robots and share their achievements with Members of Congress.

The Cimarron team has a long tradition of success that is reflective of their hard work, dedication, and creativity as well as Cimarron-Memorial High School's strong commitment to academic excellence. They were among the top participants at the FIRST Las Vegas Regional held in March on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and were named the Las Vegas regional champions in 2005 and 2006. I know that every Member of the Senate joins me in honoring the extraordinary accomplishments of Cimarron-Memorial High School and its FIRST Robotics National Championship team.

HONORING MARGARET BLACKSHERE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Margaret Blackshere, a woman for whom I have great respect and admiration.

Margaret Blackshere has been involved in the labor movement for more than 40 years and remains deeply committed to helping the working families of Illinois. Until February, she served as president of the 1-million-member strong Illinois AFL-CIO, the third-largest state labor body in the country.

Over the years, she has never been afraid to roll up her sleeves and join the picket line or to lead the march.

Margaret always arrived first and left last.

She knows that America's working men and women—those who perform some of the most demanding yet vital tasks in our society—are the real heroes. For her, her service has been a privilege and an opportunity to fight for rights she believes should be guaranteed.

Margaret didn't start out to be a labor leader; she began her career as a kindergarten teacher in Madison, IL. She became involved in the labor movement almost by accident, after she and her fellow teachers were repeatedly passed over for raises they had earned. In response, she and her colleagues mobilized to pass a referendum that would raise their wages. It wasn't just about the money. It was about having a voice.

This early effort led to a job with the local Illinois Federation of Teachers affiliate in Madison. Through hard work, Margaret rose to become statewide vice president of the IFT.